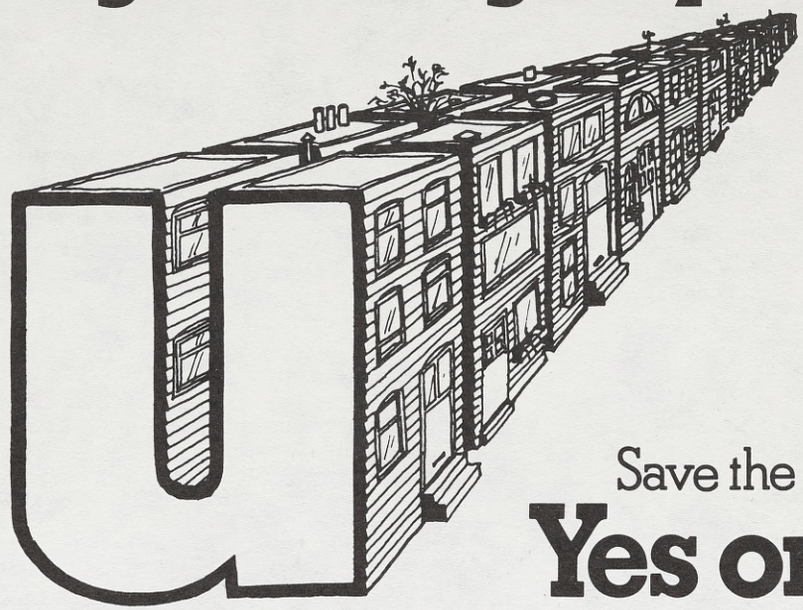
In a city short on housing ...U goes a long way.



Save the I-Hotel

Yes on U

151 Potrero, San Francisco 431-1447

Yes on U, Ann Schwartz, Treasurer

Please feel free to enlarge, reduce or photocopy. Thanks

In a city short on housing ...U goes a long way.

Save the I-Hotel

Yes on U

In a city short on housing ...U goes a long way.

Save the I-Hotel

Yes on U

Save the International Hotel

YES ON U

You can make the difference

Housing.

Save the I-Hotel

Yes on U

YES on U

151 Potrero Avenue · San Francisco, California 94103 · 431-1447

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco is beset by serious housing problems, from a severe lack of decent housing, to spiralling rents and property taxes. Proposition U aims to ease this situation.

Proposition U, placed on the ballot shortly after the violent eviction of 45 mostly elderly Asian tenants from the International Hotel, calls for the city to buy and maintain the Hotel as low-income housing in Chinatown. This area is the most seriously overcrowded in San Francisco and the Hotel would provide 155 units of decent low-rent housing.

Just as importantly, Proposition U is a voter's call for concrete action by the city government to alleviate the growing housing problem in San Francisco.

HOUSING PROBLEMS CONFRONT EVERYONE

Homeowners feel the housing pinch through their increased property taxes. Property assessments will have increased 718% between 1965 and 1978, according to the Redevelopment Agency. Tax increases mean higher rents, so that apartment dwellers also are affected.

Low-income people find the situation even more bleak. In the last 20 years, 10,000 housing units in the city have been destroyed. 6,000 families---15,000 people---are on waiting lists for public housing. Some have been waiting for ten years.

For the low-income people who have housing, almost 80% of these households are paying more than a quarter of their income for housing. This figure jumps to 85% for elderly households. While they pay a disproportionately high amount for rent, 20% of these low-income households live in substandard conditions.

While almost all neighborhoods in San Francisco have been affected, it is the minority areas and the elderly on fixed incomes who are the hardest hit.

In Chinatown, the most crowded area of the city, six low-rent hotels were closed in 1976 alone, with NO new replacement units created. The public housing units remain crowded with a long waiting list.

MORE

NEIGHBORHOODS DISPLACED BY CORPORATE EXPANSION

These housing problems have reached a critical level because of expanding corporate projects which are uprooting neighborhoods and replacing them with high-cost commercial, office, or luxury living facilities.

This major displacement seriously cripples people in ethnic communities who face severe language barriers outside their neighborhood and depend on their community for ethnic groceries, social services, and lifestyle.

These developments do little to improve the quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods. For instance, the Japan Center, completed in 1974, displaced the Japanese community and replaced housing and neighborhood stores with hotels, a trade center for overseas Japanese corporations, and expensive tourist restaurants.

Other redevelopment in the Fillmore (this project originally was called "negro removal") has already displaced 8,000 people, 80% of whom are non-White.

The Yerba Buena project has removed 4,000 residents to make way for a ten-block office/tourist/sports/parking facility. Little, if any, replacement housing has been built.

Elimination of these housing units place burdens onto the remaining community residents. Because of the now-limited number of units, the neighborhood becomes overcrowded. Families and small businesses must pay higher property taxes and rent also goes up.

Although each major development radically affects San Francisco residents, most of these corporate projects were started by city offials with intense lobbying by business interests, and never were placed on the ballot for voter approval.

Proposition U would end this trend by calling on the city to stop a corporate development in order to preserve low-rent housing for San Francisco residents---the first time nationally that such a mandate will have been issued.

I HOTEL: SYMBOL OF THE FIGHT FOR DECENT HOUSING

The International Hotel sits on one of the last two remaining blocks of a once-large Manilatown, now swallowed by downtown development. It has served as lodging for Pilipino laborers and families, and was a tenant-run home for mostly elderly Chinese and Pilipino men.

MORE

YES ON U
add two

Nine years ago, the Milton Meyer real estate heirs, the owners of the hotel, unveiled plans to tear down the building and transform the lot into a parking facility. Tenants of the International Hotel decided to resist this encroachment on their community since destruction of the Hotel would mean a further expansion of the financial district into Chinatown/Manilatown at the cost of losing another housing unit.

During the last nine years, the International Hotel became an important symbol of community resistance to corporate pressures. Tenants continually challenged government officials to provide them alternative decent, affordable housing in Chinatown. None was ever given, so the tenants kept up the fight for their home.

Two months ago, the tenants were forcibly removed from the Hotel in a violent early-morning eviction, despite the broad support of thousands of San Franciscans. Today, the International Hotel stands vacant---in a neighborhood critically in need of housing.

Despite two illegal attempts to demolish the building, the 155-unit International Hotel still is structurally sound. Contrary to erroneous reports, all major code violations were repaired in 1970. Further rennovation of the building would only cost $65,000, according to the Superintendant of the Bureau of Building Inspection.

Rennovation of the International Hotel would be less expensive than building 155 new units in Chinatown. Building costs alone for the new units would exceed $5 million, according to federal estimates.

Thus, Proposition U would maintain 155 units of badly-needed housing quickly and economically, as well as indicate a growing concern that city government must take direct action to check the rapidly worsening condition of San Francisco housing.

A yes vote on Proposition U is a vote for decent housing.

Vote yes on Proposition U.

YES on U

151 Potrero Avenue · San Francisco, California 94103 · 431-1447

SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING FACT SHEET

A. In the last 20 years, 10,000 housing units in the city have been destroyed. Today there are about 6000 families (over 15,000 people) on the waiting list for public housing, some waiting as long as 10 years.

B. 55% of the city's housing stock have code violations. 12% have immediate and serious life-safety hazards, 14% have significant code deficiencies, while another 27% have minor code violations.[1]

C. Approximately 20% of lower income renter households live in substandard conditions.[2]

D. 78% of lower income households in San Francisco are overpaying for housing (i.e., paying more than 25% of income).[3] The figure jumps to 85% for both elderly households and female-headed households in the lower income range.[2]

E. From 1963-73 rental costs increased by 85%, the highest rate of increase in the United States.[4]

F. A rental survey conducted by the Dept. of City Planning revealed that the 1976 median rent in San Francisco was in the category of $251-300 as compared with $151-200 for 1973.[3]

G. Over 10% of lower income households are overcrowded. (Defined as having more than one person per room in a given dwelling unit.) This figure goes up to 60% among lower income large families.[2]

H. 52 highrises have been constructed in downtown since World War II, 39 of them since 1969. Yet the share of city property tax paid by the central highrise district has been declining: from 31.1% in fiscal 1950 to 28.2% in fiscal 1960 to 24.3% in fiscal 1970.[5]

I. Fire Chief Andrew Casper reports that arson in San Francisco has increased 760% in the last 15 years. From Jan. 1 to June 26, 1977 arson accounted for 5.4% of S.F. fires and for 53.3% of the property damage caused by fire. He adds that some fires are set with the blessing of property owners wanting insurance, and that others are set in revenge, for example in landlord/tenant disputes.[7]

J. Chinatown contains the city's highest population density, highest proportion of renters, and lowest rate of vacant housing.[8] It also contains some of the city's most expensive land, making construction of new housing extremely expensive.

1. Summary of the San Francisco Rehabilitation Financing Study, February 18, 1977. Submitted to the Dept. of City Planning by the Rehabiliation Finance Study Consultant Team.
2. 1977 Community Development Program and Housing Assistance Plan, Preliminary Proposal, Mayor's Office of Community Development, July, 1976.
3. 1978 version of above, July, 1977.
4. San Francisco Bay Guardian, October 4, 1974.
5. Bruce Brugmann and Greggar Sletteland, eds., The Ultimate Highrise: San Francisco's Mad Rush Toward the Sky. S.F. Bay Guardian Books, 1971.
6. San Francisco Progress, April 27, 1977.
7. San Francisco Progress, July 1, 1977.
8. The District Handbook. Coro Foundation, 1977.

YES on U

151 Potrero Avenue · San Francisco, California 94103 · 431-1447

PROPOSITION U WILL NOT COST 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS

The Voters Handbook for the November 8 election includes inaccurate statements by the City Controller John Farrell saying Prop. U would cost the City 2.5 million dollars. 1.4 million dollars is actually closer to the approximate cost of buying and renovating the International Hotel.

A difference in renovation standards accounts for part of this discrepancy. The Controller's figures assume the Housing Authority would meet higher federal standards requiring more bathrooms, more kitchens, and larger room sizes than are mandated by the City building codes. His figure of 976,432 actually exaggerates the cost of renovation.

Prop. U calls for renovation standards which only bring the building up to code. Superintendant Robert Levy from the Bureau of Building Inspection wrote in a September 6,1977 letter that renovation to meet City codes would cost only 65,000. Housing Authority figures estimate costs at no more than 75,000 for this renovation.

An addition discrepancy in the cost of Prop. U comes from the Controllers overestimated acquisition price which is nearly 300,000 above the Hotel's appraised value given by the Housing Authority. Their price would be fixed by the eminent domain action filed earlier this year.

Supporters of the International Hotel filed a suit in Superior Court to prevent the printing and distribution of the Voters Handbook containing these exaggerated figures. Judge Arnold denied this motion despite news that the Controller had refused to obey a previously court ordered addition to the wording of the Handbook. Arnold denied the motion without considering the 9/6/77 letter from the Building Superintendant. Judge Arnold is a large property owner and landlord who previously disqualified himself under pressurefrom ruling on the Housing Authority's eminent domain plan to buy the International Hotel.

Endorsers:

SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATES

Bob Barnes
Gary Borvice
Richard Boyle
James Conlan
Robert Covington
Marjorie Crump
Larry Del Carlo
Ed Dunn
Jim Earnshaw
Lee Evans
Shelley Fernandez
Jerry Fishkin
Rita George
Eric Graham
Ron Green
Hugh Griffith
Bob Hagen
Terence Hallinan
Ella Hill Hutch
John Keker
David Kennedy
Peter Mendelsohn
Harvey Milk
Richard Modolo
Michael Nolan
Jim Queen
Ray Rivera
Carol Ruth Silver
Herbert Smith
Robert St. Clair
Rick Stokes
Dalegor Suchechi
Jessie Tepper
Arnold Townsend
Sylvia Weinstein
John Molinari, Supervisor
Gordon Lau, Supervisor
AFL-CIO, Central Labor Council
Art Agnos, Assemblyman
American Jewish Congress, N. Calif.
Archdiocese of San Francisco, Comm. on Social Justice
Frances Brown, Coordinator, Calif. Legislative Council for Older Americans
Willie Brown, Assemblyman
Al Brotsky
Diane Blomquist San Francisco Redevelopment
John Burton, Congressman
Phillip Burton, Congressman
Campaign for Economic Democracy
Canon Kip Community Center
Rene Cazenave
Christina Cecchettini S.F. Womens' Centers
Centro de Cambio
Chinatown Coalition for Better Housing
Rev. Harry Chuck
George Davis, Secy.-Treas., O.P.E.I.U. Local 3, AFL-CIO
Troy Dangerfield, Officers for Justice
Democratic County Central Comm.
Roger L. Dillon, S.E.I.U., Local 87,
Bert Donlin, Retired V.-Pres. I.L.W.U. Local 10
Robert Edwards, Pres. Shipscalers, I.L.W.U.
John Foran, State Senator
Ted Frazier, S.F. Coalition

YES on U

151 Potrero Avenue · San Francisco, California 94103 · 431-1447

Contact: Janet Parker
Roger Templeton

October 18, 1977

To the Media:

In the upcoming November election, San Franciscans will be asked to register their votes on twenty-two ballot proposition. Included in that list is one proposition which confronts the city's negligence in providing decent and affordable housing for its people. Prop U, which asks if the city should buy and maintain the International Hotel as low-rent housing, directly challenges the government's practice of placing corporate interests before human needs.

Recognizing that San Franciscans no longer will tolerate having their housing needs ignored, about forty supervisorial candidates already have endorsed Prop U and have made it a priority issue in their campaign literature. Since a majority of the new Board of Supervisors most likely will be Prop U endorsers, implementation of the proposition is a virtual certainty, if the voters approve it (the City Charter states that propositions approved by the voters must be passed into law).

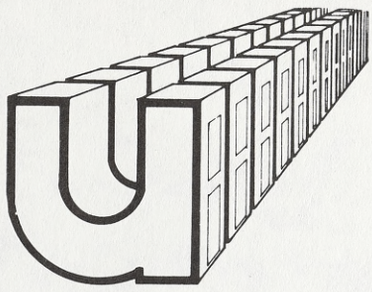
We hope that the enclosed literature will answer any questions you may have concerning Proposition U and its implications regarding low-rent housing in San Francisco. Please call if you need more information.

Cordially,

The "YES on U" Committee

Alvin Gant, Gen. Pres., Nat. Mail-handlers, Local 302
Charles Garry
Goodman Bldg. Tenants Union
Gil Graham
Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council
Joseph Hall, Pres. S.F. N.A.A.C.P.
Barbara Helmick, C.A.L.
Victor Honig
International Hotel Tenants Association
Walter Johnson, Pres. Dept. Store Employees Union Local 1100
George Kaye, Secy. I.L.W.U. No. 10
La Raza Information Center
Carole Jan Lee, Comm. on Status of Women
Local 400, S.E.I.U.
Bill Maher, S.F. Board of Education
Mike Mason
Jeff Mori, Japanese Community Services
Jack Morrison, S.F. Port Comm.
Mission Neighborhood Centers
Ping Yuen Tenants Assoc.
Alexander Riskin, Chair, Gray Panthers
San Francisco Community Congress
San Francisco Council of Churches, Executive Comm.
San Francisco Council of Democratic Clubs
San Francisco Housing Coalition
San Francisco Mime Troupe
Lillian K. Sing, Pres. Chinese-American Democratic Club
Randall Stallings, Unitarian Universalist Services Committee
Donald Stang, Pres. S.F. National Lawyers Guild
Percy Steele, Jr.
Dick Tropp, S.F. Housing Authority
Jack Trujillo
Rev. Dr. A.C. Ubalde, Jr.
Yori Wada, Buchanan Y.M.C.A., Univ. of Calif. Regent
Nancy Walker
Margo Warneke
Rev. Cecil Williams
Cleophas Williams, Pres., I.L.W.U. Local 10
Gaylord Willis

Partial list

YES on 

151 Potrero Avenue · San Francisco, California 94103 · 431-1447

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL -- HISTORY, CURRENT STATUS, REHABILITATION COSTS

Rebuilt in 1907 after the earthquake of 1906, the International Hotel became a center of Manilatown, a ten-block area in the center of the city which served as an embarkment area for 10,000 Filipino immigrants. The ratio of men to women was 14 to 1. The Hotel became the home base for hundreds of men who worked on a seasonal schedule as merchant marines, Alaskan cannery workers, Central California farm workers, and as cooks and busboys in Chinatown. The Hotel was the central switchboard for the Filipino community, and working men always returned to the Hotel when back in town.

Manilatown developed because Filipinos were excluded from living in other areas of the city. At the time these men were also excluded from citizenship and from intermarriage by a state anti-miscegenation law.

Manilatown was reduced to one block by the expansion of the financial district between 1960 and 1970. In 1968 Milton Meyer Co., owner of the I-Hotel, announced plans to replace it with a parking lot. Tenants were given eviction notices in November.

On March 15, 1969, a new lease agreement was reached between the United Filipino Association (representing the tenants) and Walter Shorenstein (agent for the owners) and readied for signing. The next day, a fire (suspected arson) in the Hotel killed three tenants and destroyed 100 rooms.

Under the terms of the new three-year lease, UFA was responsible for repairing the damage. By the summer of 1970, mostly volunteer community support had fixed 85 of 87 building code violations. Total labor and materials expended estimated to be equivalent of $400,000.

On December 31, 1973, the Hotel was sold for $850,000 to Four Seas Investment Corporation (principal owner Supasit Mahaguna, holder of Thailand liquor monopoly).

In October, 1976, after first voting against it and receiving a mayoral veto, the Board of Supervisors approved $1.3 million in Community Development funds to buy the Hotel. This was to be a loan to the I-Hotel Tenants Association. Four Seas refused the offer.

On December 23, 1976, the Housing Authority agreed to use eminent domain to acquire the Hotel. In February, 1977 Four Seas pushed for a hearing to challenge the legality of these procedures.

At the end of May, 1977, Judge Peery of the Appellate Court ruled against the eminent domain procedures.

On August 4, 1977 the tenants of the International Hotel were evicted between 3:00 and 7:00 A.M. by a force of some 400 police and sheriff's deputies. 2000 demonstrators had gathered in an effort to bloc block the eviction with nonviolent resistance. One-quarter of a million dollars was spent to evict the tenants.

At the present time, Four Seas' demolition permit is considered invalid by the city's Board of Permit Appeals. Judge Arnold of the Superior Court says it is valid. The case is now before the Court of Appeals.

Other cases concerning the eviction and the use of eminent domain to acquire the Hotel may be heard in coming months.

In the Voters Handbook, the Controller uses an inflated figure of $2.5 million as an estimate for purchase and rehabilitation of the I-Hotel. The Controller is using HUD (federal) guidelines in an effort to inflate the cost and discourage preservation of the Hotel.

Proposition U states only that the Hotel should be brought up to code. The Superintendent of the city's Bureau of Building Inspectors has written Bill Carpenter, lawyer for the IHTA, that the building as it now stands would need only $65,000 worth of work to bring it up to the city code. The Controller is using a rehabilitation figure of some $976,000.

More on Chinatown Housing:

The Office of Community Development has already allocated (from 1975-77) $1.5 million to buy a site for public housing at the corner of Washington and Stockton. The site is presently owned by Hogan Investment. The OCD does not say how many housing units it would build there should the site become available. The 1978 OCD program also mentions an additional $500,000 allocation to acquire another public housing site in Chinatown.

New elderly housing built under HUD guidelines costs some $35-40,000 per unit. This is three or four times the unit cost of buying and rehabilitating the International Hotel.

U

DECLARATION OF POLICY

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

Ballot Title

DECLARATION OF POLICY: Shall the City and County of San Francisco purchase the International Hotel, bring the building up to code and transfer same to the San Francisco Housing Authority to be used for low-rent housing?

Analysis

By Ballot Simplification Committee

THE WAY IT IS NOW: The International Hotel at 848 Kearny St. is a privately-owned, three-story building with 150 rooms. Until the tenants were evicted, it provided low rent housing, primarily for elderly and minority people. The owner of the building wants to tear it down in order to use the site for other purposes.

THE PROPOSAL: Proposition U asks if the City should buy the International Hotel, fix the building up so it meets the standards set by law, and transfer it to the San Francisco Housing Authority to be used for low-rent housing.

A YES VOTE MEANS: If you vote yes, you want the City to buy the International Hotel and fix it up so that it can be used for low-rent housing.

A NO VOTE MEANS: If you vote no, you do not want the City to buy the International Hotel.

Controller's Statement on "U"

City Controller John C. Farrell has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition U:

Should the proposed declaration of policy be approved, it is my opinion, the increase in the cost of government would be approximately $2,500,000 as a one time cost.

Based on the 1977-1978 assessment roll, this estimated increase is equivalent to six and seventy-nine hundredths cents ($0.0679) in the tax rate.

How Proposition U Got On The Ballot

Proposition U was placed on the ballot by a City Charter provision which allows four or more individual members of the Board of Supervisors to place a Declaration of Policy on the ballot.

On August 29, the Registrar received a request from 5 supervisors asking that the question of the International Hotel be placed on the ballot. The request was signed by Supervisors Feinstein, Francois, Gonzales, Molinari, and von Beroldingen.

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION U

"Housing is our right! Fight forced dispersion of national minority communities like Chinatown-Manilatown."

N. Diao
Asian Americans for Equality

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION U

Over 2500 units of low-rent housing have been demolished in the Chinatown-Manilatown area in the last ten years. None were replaced. Corporate business systematically destroyed the Manilatown community, once ten square blocks—buying properties, and demolishing homes, community centers, and shops. Today, the same destruction ravages Chinatown. For decades, discrimination prevented most Chinese and Filipinos from living and working outside their communities. Their labor has been exploited in the sweatshops, ships, factories and farms of this country. The rich have reaped untold profits from this oppression by paying subsistence wages, charging high rents, delivering the worst educational and social services.

The International Hotel tenants fought eviction for nine years because of these conditions. Their valiant struggle against the attacks on them and their community has won them the admiration and support of millions nationwide. The brutal eviction of the elderly tenants by 400 police and sheriffs, costing $250,000, has not ended the fight. Everytime people fight for a decent life, the rich always say it will cost too much—but it's the people who end up paying while the rich get off the hook. This year, homeowners face 9% property tax increases, while big business gets 10-20% decreases. Needed social services for the elderly and the "working poor" are being cut back. At the same time, $30 million of our taxes each year goes to banks holding municipal bonds. We say, let the banks and big business bear the cost for low-rent housing. Tax their profits, not our wages.

Four Seas Investment Corporation, and others, will tell voters that this Proposition is an attack on private property, on the right of people to own homes and other possessions. But what's at stake is not people's rights to own these things, but big business' right to profit by throwing people into the streets and tearing down their homes. We must stand up to this. We need more decent low-rent housing. Vote YES on Proposition U.

Paulette Liang, spokeswoman
Workers Committee to Fight for International Hotel and Victory Building 397-0629

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION U

Five thousand families are on the Housing Authority's waiting list. No low-rent housing has been built in five years. Inflationary rent hikes hurt everyone. Even homeowners suffer punitive taxes they can ill afford.

Thousands of housing units have been destroyed in the past decade. Concrete highrises and expensive condominiums replace people. Yet little of the taxes paid by these technical wonders goes toward low-rent housing. People have been swept this way and that in the name of Progress—"progress" always accompanied by human suffering. The heart of the International Hotel issue is whether people have housing rights, or whether the rights of commerce reign supreme over human beings.

Contrary to slanderous editorials, there were no code violations in the residential portion of the International Hotel. The building is structurally sound and safe, and under tenants' management it was clean and orderly. The International Hotel has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. government, in recognition of its cultural significance.

Purchase of the hotel or its site is a step towards recognizing housing needs of common people in San Francisco. Economically, buying it is a bargain—a good investment, adding 155 much needed low-rent units for the city. Rents collected from the building will return to the city treasury most of the cost. The

(continued)

Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.

U DECLARATION OF POLICY INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

(Argument for Proposition U, Continued)

need for low rent housing will not go away by itself. The brutal eviction of the elderly International Hotel tenants highlighted the need for low-rent housing, and the inability of our institutions to meet that need.

Proposition U is not a mandate for the city to purchase the hotel, but a "Yes" vote would recognize the urgent need for low-rent housing and encourage the city to begin concrete action towards resolving this issue. Vote "Yes" on Proposition U.

International Hotel Tenants Association.

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION U

WE URGE A "YES" VOTE ON PROPOSITION U!

Asian Community Center
Campbell, Norma
Cecchettini, Christina—San Francisco Women's Centers
Centro de Cambio
Chan, Diana Ming
Chew, Laureen—Teacher
Chew, Martin—Attorney
Chin, Gordon
Chin, Lonnie—Teacher
Chin, Phil
Chinatown Tenants Organizing Committee
Choy, Philip
Chuck, Rev. Harry
Colter, Rossie
Community Educational Services
Davis, George—Secretary/Treasurer O.P.E.I.U. Local 3 AFL-CIO
Donlin, Bert—Retired Vice President, ILWU Local 10
Edwards, Robert—President, Shipscalers ILWU
Fong, Katheryn
Gant, Alvin—General President, National Post Office Mailhandlers Local 302, Div. LIUNA
Gilman, Earl—President, Social Services No. 535
Goodman Building Tenant's Union
Helmick, Barbara
Hernandez, George A.
Hing, Bill Ong—Attorney
Holtzclaw, John
Hutch, Ella Hill—Vice President, Board of Directors BART
Ishida, David
Ja, Kew Yuen—M & J Co.
Jan, Elmer
Jew, Virginia
Jing Wu Chinese Physical Association
Johnson, Walter—President, Dept. Store Employees Union Local 110
Kerridge, Kathy
Kim, Tom—Bay Area Coalition of Koreans
Kitagaki, Nobuo
Kojimoto, Kathy—SEIU Local 535
Kuroiwa, Spencer
Lee, Carole Jan—Commissioner, Commission Status of Women
Lee, Michael—Attorney
Lee, Pam
Lee, Patricia—Attorney
Lew, Eunice—Teacher
Logue-Riskin, Ruth—S.F. Gray Panthers
Low, Tom—Attorney
Lowe, Rolland—Physician
Lowe, Russ
McClain, Curtis
Mission Childcare Consortium, Inc.
Mori, Jeff
National United Workers Organization—Bay Area Chapter
Olson, Reeva—Office Employees Local 3
On, Pamela
Ouye, Sandy
Ping Yuen Tenants Association
Prowler, David
Quan, David—Program Director, Asian American Community Mental Health Training Center
Riskin, Alexander—Chair, Gray Panthers
Ruiz, Sam
San Francisco Wu Shu Troupe
Shek, Lilian—Attorney
Spikes, Eleanor
Stallings, Randall—Coordinator, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Steele, Percy Jr.
Suncin, George—Horizons Unlimited
Tang, Julie—Counselor, S.F. Community College
Townsend, Arnold—WAPAC
Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee
Vietnam Veterans Against the War
Wada, Patty
Wada, Yori—Director, Buchanan YMCA
Waller, Rich
Wang, Linda
Wang, Ling-chi—Asst. Professor, U.C. Berkeley
Wang, Wayne
Williams, Cleophas President, ILWU No. 10
Kay, George—Secretary, ILWU No. 10
Wong, Steve—Everybody's Bookstore
The Worker Newspaper
Xin Hua Mutual Aid Association
Yee, Christine—Community Worker
Yee, Emily
Yee, Harold
Yee, Ruth—Director, Chinatown Community Children's Center
Yuey, Joe
Zinn, Lina

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION U

WE SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL TENANTS ASSOCIATION

VOTE "YES" ON PROPOSITION U

American Jewish Congress, Northern California Division
Archdiocese of San Francisco, Commission on Social Justice
Art Agnos, Assemblyman
Ray Balberon, President—Mission Media Arts
John L. Burton, Member of Congress
Gary Borvice
Robert Covington
Eugene Coleman
Rodger L. Dillon, President, Local 87, SEIU
Rita George
Ron Green
Gil Graham
Terence Hallinan
Joseph Hall, President, S.F. NAACP
La Raza Information Center
La Raza Centro Legal
Gordon Lau
John Molinari, Supervisor
Jack Morrison
Harvey Milk
Peter Mendelsohn, Commissioner
Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Michael Nolan
Jim Queen
Ray Rivera
Rick Stokes
Carol Ruth Silver
Lillian K. Sing, President, Chinese-American Democratic Club
Donald Stang, President S.F. National Lawyers Guild
San Francisco Council of Churches, Executive Committee
Jack Trujillo
Arnold G. Townsend
The Rev. Dr. A. C. Ubalde, Jr.
Cecil Williams
Ruth Wellington
Nancy G. Walker
Margo Warnecke, S.F. LandMarks Board Commission

Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION U

More low rent housing in San Francisco is a good idea. But buying the International Hotel is a bad idea. Purchasing and upgrading this 70 year old condemned building would cost millions of *your* tax dollars. At most, it could house about 150 tenants. All San Franciscans, those who desperately need decent low rent housing as well as those taxpayers who must subsidize it, should reject this extravagant and wasteful scheme.

Buying the hotel will be very expensive. It's located near the financial district, four blocks from the Transamerica "pyramid." Land in this area brings top dollar and the City will have to pay the going rate. Acquiring the property could take years as the courts decide what price the City must pay. And once the property is finally bought, hundreds of thousands more dollars will have to be poured in just to bring the building up to City Health and Safety Codes. Compliance with present earthquake standards would require gutting and reconstructing the entire building.

But the tremendous expense and years of delay aren't the only reasons why the I-Hotel is a bad idea. Many of the forty tenants in the Hotel have moved a few blocks south to another hotel on Kearny Street. So far, they are the only ones who have said they want to live in the I-Hotel.

When thousands of San Franciscans live in squalor, does it make sense to spend millions of dollars for the benefit of this small group? When the City now owns acres of vacant land, does it make sense to take valuable commercial property off the tax rolls? When more and better new housing could be built for less than the price of the I-Hotel, does it make sense to pour your tax dollars into a rotting hulk which can house so few?

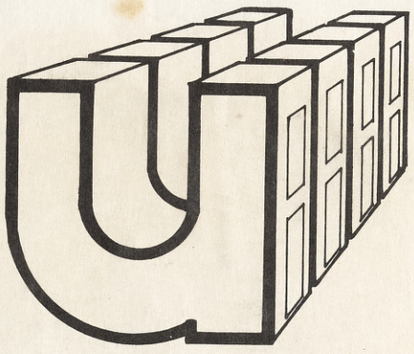
We think not. We urge you to demand the *best* low rent housing your money can buy for *all* who need it. Vote *NO* on Proposition U.

James Prisin-Zano
Former Regional Attorney,
Federal Public Housing Administration

Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.

Save the I-Hotel

YES on



151 Potrero Avenue · San Francisco, California 94103 · 431-1447

Chester Hartman